

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 IOE-00 /110 W

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P 231800Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3993

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4781

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY DUNLOP, SEGALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLO

SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT US
REACTION TO OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO

REF: A) GENEVA 4448; B) GENEVA 4577; C) STATE 136870

1. SUMMARY. ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BLANCHARD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO ME ABOUT US REACTION IN GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO THE PLO (REF A). BLANCHARD SAID THE ILO HAD NOT BEEN "SOLD TO THE ARABS" AND THAT THE ILO STAFF HAD HANDLED THE PLO ISSUE "ACCORDING TO THE RULES." HE SAID OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PLO WAS A DEFEAT FOR THE ILO AS WELL AS FOR THE US BUT THAT THIS CANNOT GO ON FOREVER AND THE US SHOULD STAY IN AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT IN THE ILO. BLANCHARD EXPRESSED SHOCK AND AMAZE-
MENT AT SECRETARY DUNLOP'S REPORTED COMMENTS (SEE PARA 6 BELOW). USDEL AND I HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM THE ILO STAFF AND FROM CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS ABOUT THE JUNE 18 PRESS CONFERENCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IN PARTICULAR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO FIELD QUESTIONS ON UPI REPORT OF SECRETARY'S COMMENTS
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CONCERNING DETERIORATION OF STAFF WORK AND QUALITY OF

PERSONNEL AT ILO IN RECENT YEARS. ILO STAFFERS WITH WHOM U.S. WILL HAVE TO WORK IN ANY EFFORT TO TURN ILO TREND AROUND ARE, ON ONE BASIS OF SHORT UPI REPORT, ASSUMING THEY HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY ATTACKED. END SUMMARY.

2. BLANCHARD CALLED ME IN JUNE 20 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERNS ABOUT SENATOR SCHWEIKER'S STATEMENT THAT FUNDS TO THE ILO SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN BY THE CONGRESS AND BY THE PRESS ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY DUNLOP'S PRESS CONFERENCE (PARA 6 BELOW). BLANCHARD SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS FROM THE ILO WAS ILLOGICAL BECAUSE THE ILO WAS THE LAST UN ORGANIZATION TO PERMIT THE PLO TO COME IN, NOT THE FIRST. WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS FROM THE ILO WOULD REQUIRE THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW FUNDS FROM ALL THE OTHER UN AGENCIES. BLANCHARD SAID THAT THE ILO HAD NOT BEEN "SOLD TO THE ARABS" AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON TO KNOW THAT THE DECISION "WAS NOT TAKEN IN TWELVE DAYS BUT IN TWELVE MONTHS." THE SECRETARIAT HAD LIVED BY THE RULES AND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE CONFERENCE IN HANDLING THIS MATTER. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AND OTHER ARABS FOR NOT PERSONALLY ESCORTING THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DAIS JUST BEFORE HE MADE HIS SPEECH ON JUNE 12. BLANCHARD SAID HE TOLD THE ARABS THAT THIS WAS NOT ILO PRACTICE AND WOULD HAVE BEEN "ONLY A SHOW," BUT SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE STILL CRITICAL. HE SAID HE WILL OPPOSE THE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE JUNE 12 SPEECH OF THE PLO REP (REF B) IF THEY CAME UP IN THE GOVERNING BODY SESSION ON JUNE 26. BLANCHARD SAID HE WOULD STATE AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE THAT EXISTING ILO PROCEDURES ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE USED.

3. BLANCHARD STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE ILO WAS NOT BEING "RUN BY THE COMMUNISTS", AND SAID IF US CUT OFF FUNDS OR GAVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL, POSITION OF THE SOVIETS IN THE ILO WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WERE VERY UNHAPPY BECAUSE US EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE POLISH AMBASSADOR FROM CHAIRING THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THEY WERE ALSO UNHAPPY BECAUSE HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED THEIR PRESSURE TO APPOINT A SOVIET AS THE FOURTH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MCDONALD, AND THAT THEY WERE BITTER THAT THEIR EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE HAD NOT BEEN REELECTED TO THE GOVERNING BODY, NOT EVEN AS A DEPUTY MEMBER. HE SAID THE CHARGE OF SOVIET DOMINATION WAS NOT BORN OUT BY THE STAFFING PATTERN: THE

SOVIETS HAD 2.5 PERCENT OF THE ILO STAFF AND THE US HAS 11 PERCENT; AND HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ELECTION OF IRVING BROWN, BEN-ISRAEL, CHARLES SMITH AND BOB HAWKE TO THE GOVERNING BODY WAS A VICTORY FOR THE US AND INSURED THAT US INTERESTS IN THE GOVERNING BODY WOULD BE SUPPORTED. HE ALSO SAID THAT HOLDING THE ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE ON A BIENNIAL BASIS WOULD BE UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE.

4. BLANCHARD SAID HE WAS AMAZED BY THE ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY DUNLOP'S PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH CITED DETERIORATION OF ILO STAFF WORK AND FAILURE TO RECRUIT GOOD PEOPLE IN RECENT YEARS. HE SAID THIS CONTRASTED WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND TENOR OF PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH SECRETARY DUNLOP AND NED PERSONS AND ALSO CONTRASTED RATHER SHARPLY WITH THE SPEECH DUNLOP WOULD HAVE GIVEN HAD HE ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE (REF C). BLANCHARD SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR PERSONS' ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN WASHINGTON.

5. WHEN I PRESSED BLANCHARD ON WHEN AND WHERE HE HAD HEARD THAT THE ILO WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS, HE SAID HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO RECENT STATEMENTS BUT TO LONGSTANDING CONCERNS OF GEORGE MEANY AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ABOUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE ILO.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UPI REPORT OF SECRETARY DUNLOP'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 18:

BEGIN TEXT: ILO 6-18

WASHINGTON, JUNE 18 (UPI) - LABOR SECRETARY JOHN T. DUNLOP SAID WEDNESDAY HE HAD BEGUN CONSULTA-
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TIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION WHOSE TECHNICAL WORK SHOWED SIGNS OF "DECAY."

IN A MEETING WITH NEWSMEN, DUNLOP WAS CRITICAL OF THE ILO STAFF WORK AND ITS POLITICAL VENTURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ILO DISPUTE OVER OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.

DUNLOP DISTRIBUTED TO NEWSMEN A SPEECH PREPARED BUT NOT DELIVERED AT THE ILO GENEVA MEETING JUNE 12.

"I CAME TO THE OFFICE ALL PACKED TO GO," DUNLOP SAID. HE SAID HE DECIDED NOT TO GO AFTER THE ILO BECAME EMBROILED IN A DISPUTE ABOUT RECOGNITION OF THE

PLO AS AN OBSERVER WITHOUT REQUIRING THE PLO TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WALKED OUT, ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS DRIFTED BACK TO LATER SESSIONS. DUNLOP ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO NEWSMEN A STATEMENT BY NED PERSONS, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATE LEADER. PERSONS CALLED THE ILO DECISION A BETRAYAL.

DUNLOP SAID HE HAD BEGUN A "PROCESS OF CONSULTATION" IN LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE SERVED BY REMAINING IN THE ILO.

DUNLOP SAID HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION'S FUTURE.

"THE STAFF WORK HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE LAST GENERATION," HE SAID. "THEY HAVE NOT RECRUITED GOOD PEOPLE IN RECENT YEARS." END TEXT. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETING OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA04781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750218-0061
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750625/aaaaawyg.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 4448, 75 GENEVA 4577, 75 STATE 136870
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT US REACTION TO OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO
TAGS: PORG, US, ILO, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006